

Applic. No. 10/728,386  
Amdt. dated May 9, 2006  
Reply to Office action of March 14, 2006

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9 remain in the application. Claims 1-7 and 9 have been amended. Claim 8 is being cancelled herewith.

In item 1 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claim 8 has been objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 7. Claim 8 has been cancelled from the application. Therefore, the objection to claim 8 by the Examiner is now moot.

Should the Examiner find any further objectionable items, counsel would appreciate a telephone call during which the matter may be resolved. The above-noted changes to the claims are provided solely for cosmetic or clarificatory reasons. The changes are not provided for overcoming the prior art nor for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1-3 and 6-9 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Okubo (JP 06-270500) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

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The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found on page 8, lines 11-16 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 9 call for, *inter alia*:

exposure heads for focusing laser beams on the recording material.

The Okuba reference discloses a print head moving mechanism. The mechanism relates to a style carrier of a dot impact printer. The print head has 24 pins [0018]. Okuba discloses that the movement of the printhead is such that the injection energy of the carrier can be increased with respect to the enhanced printing speed [0004]. The energy is increased without enlarging the distance between the pins and a form [0030]. Because a dot impact printer injects one or more styles into a paper, the carrier is accelerated towards the paper. Okuba discloses an acceleration of the printhead to

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impact on the surface of a substrate and how to manage the acceleration without the need to enlarge the distance between the carrier and the form, while increasing printing speed.

The reference does not show exposure heads for focusing laser beams on the recording material, as recited in claims 1 and 9 of the instant application. The Okuba reference discloses a impact type printing device. Okuba does not disclose an exposure head for focusing laser beams. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, which recites exposure heads for focusing laser beams on the recording material.

Since claim 1 is believed to be allowable, dependent claims 2-3 and 6-8 are believed to be allowable as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 9. Claims 1 and 9 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

It is appreciatively noted from page 4 of the Office action that claims 4 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten in

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independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The claims have not been amended as indicated by the Examiner, as the claims are believed to be patentable in their existing form.

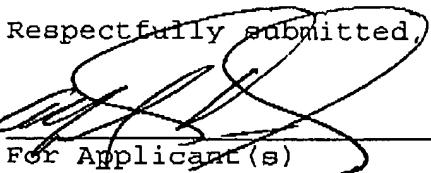
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-7 and 9 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

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Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect  
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner  
Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
For Applicant(s)

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